



Clean equals green

It's not just about product selection and sustainable design – green building practice must carry right through to your activities on site. And there are simple solutions.



A problem that can no longer be ignored: Building sites are one of the nation's biggest sources of waterway pollution and they contribute a substantial amount to landfill.

South Australia's Candetti Constructions saved about 95% of material usually earmarked for landfill during its construction of the \$6 million Maritime Skills Centre (MSC).

The MSC is being established by the South Australian Government at Techport Australia in Osborne.

With the industry's increased focus on 'green', onsite waste is an issue that can no longer be ignored. Building sites are one of the nation's biggest sources of waterway pollution and they contribute a substantial amount to landfill.

Waste management at the MSC site involved extensive waste recovery and recycling of construction materials, including reusing concrete as road base/

rubble; innovative sediment controls to eliminate soil drag out to adjacent roads; and extensive waste separation onsite – including concrete, steel and glass, as well as bottles, cans and plastic bags – to prevent them being blown into the nearby Port River.

The 95% rate was maintained throughout the construction of the project, well above the Green Star ESD building rating system, which sets a target recycling rate of 60-80%

"Each and every one of us has a role to play in reducing our environmental footprint, no matter what we do," Candetti Constructions general manager Greg Lomax says.

"Candetti Constructions is very proud of the recycling rates that have been achieved with this development."

Yes, this is a commercial site, but the

same principles can be applied to any building site, large or small.

For the residential builder it could be as simple as providing various bins for recycling different materials and ensuring adequate site fencing for the containment of litter. Other important steps include proper disposal of washings such as paint and concrete and simply using fewer products or selecting the right building products.

Candetti adopted its recycling practice in line with the State's KESAB Clean Site program, which aims to achieve best environmental practice in the local building industry, from DIY right up to the large commercial builder.

Clean Site provides educational information and industry training and it promotes positive examples of clean site practices.

"The Maritime Skills Centre project is being promoted as a 'model' construction site encouraging other companies to take a leaf out of Candetti's book," KESAB Clean Site program co-ordinator, Richard Olesinski, says.

"The recycling rates achieved by Candetti are virtually unheard of in the building and construction industry. They have set new industry benchmarks and precedents and should be duly recognised for their efforts.

"Candetti has raised the bar in terms of what can be achieved on building sites with commonsense environmental practices."

And the benefits don't just apply to the environment. KESAB says other benefits can include a better looking, more saleable site, reduced clean-up costs, fewer mud and dust problems and improved wet-weather working conditions.

Working this way can result in fewer



THE BUILDING

KESAB has some simple tips for builders to keep their sites pollution free:

Vehicles delivering materials – Clean up any soil or mud deposited on the roadway. Use a broom and not a hose.

Litter and waste – Place all waste into a bin to prevent it from blowing into the stormwater system. Use a waste recycling contractor to reduce the amount of discarded materials going to landfill.

Stockpiles – Soil or sand must be placed away from gutters and covered at the end of each day if rain or wind is likely.

Concrete mixing – All mixing of cement or concrete must be carried out in an area that can contain all excess water, residues and waste to prevent it entering the stormwater system. Create an area where the water can pond and evaporate.

Brick works, cutting and paving – Always mix mortar away from gutters or any other location that may drain into the stormwater system. All wastewater generated from brick cutting must also be prevented from entering the stormwater system. Create an area where the water can pond and evaporate.

Painting – When painting is finished make sure the waste and wash waters are diverted into a contained area lined with newspaper. When it's dry, place the newspaper and residue in a bin.

Oil-based paint clean-up material such as turps should be filtered for reuse or taken to a licensed waste depot. Oil paint residue should be allowed to dry and be placed in a bin for solid waste. Keep unused paint in the tin and dispose to a licensed waste depot.

Plastering – Residues and wastes should be allowed to dry in a contained area onsite. All waste must be disposed of to a bin or a licensed waste depot. Some solid wastes, such as calcium sulphate, can be used as a modifier in your garden. It is excellent for clay soils.

More extensive and specific information is available online.



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occupational health and safety issues; cost savings through reduced stockpile losses, improved drainage and reduced site wetness; fewer public complaints and a better image in the community

Keep Australia Beautiful runs Clean Site programs in various States. The HIA and Master Builders are also actively involved. Contact your local branches for more information.

Industry also has an important role to

play, with the call for EPR (extended producer responsibility) for the products they create. For more information on timber industry initiatives and how to maximise your own timber waste, refer to Ted Riddle's article on page 28. ■

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